THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Gauge Conversion of Hassan- Mangalore section has already been completed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Freight movement on Bangalore-Mysore section

1486. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether movement of passenger and freight on Bangalore-Mysore railway section is on the increase and present trains are unable to cope with such increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka has conveyed its willingness to bear the cost of the project to the extent of 50 per cent for doubling of the said rail line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto and present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Extension of 6509/6510 Ajmer-Bangalore Express upto Mysore has been announced in Railway Budget 2007-08.

(c) and (d) State Government has agreed to share 2/3rd cost of doubling and electrification of the line. Bangalore-Kengeri doubling has been commissioned. Kengeri-Bidadi-Ramanagaram is targeted for completion during 2007-08. The work of Ramanagaram-Mysore has been included in Budget 2007-08 and preparation of plan and estimate taken up.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam rail line

1487. PROF. P.J KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of doubling work between Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam rail line; and

(b) the total funds allocated for the current year and spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Doublings of the entire Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam route in patches has been taken up and Ernakulam-Mulanturutti, Chengannur-Mavelikara-Kayamkulam are targeted for completion during the year 2007-08. Balance works are likely to be completed in phases in next 2-3 years.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 91 crore has been provided for the patch doublings on Kottayam route for the year 2007-08 and an expenditure of Rs. 75.60 crore has been incurred on these works upto March, 2007.